

Appl. No. Serial No. 10/781,530
Amdt. Dated 1/25/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/25/2005
Page 3 of 9

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 3, 9 and 10 with the enclosed figures marked as Replacement Sheets.
The amendments to the figures are shown in the enclosed figures marked as Annotated
Sheets.

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/781,530
Amdt. Dated 1/25/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/25/2005
Page 8 of 9

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-4, and 6-7 and objected to Claims 1-7. Claims 2 and 5 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and amended to overcome the claim objections. The foregoing amendment amends Claims 1, 5, and 7, cancels Claim 2, and adds Claims 14-17. Claims 8-13 have been withdrawn.

The Examiner alleged that both instances of "the" on line 2 of Claim 1 should be replaced with "a". Line 2 recites "the coupling . . . the double tube." The preamble recites "a coupling for a double tube" and thus, provides an antecedent basis for the coupling and the double-tube recited in line 2. The remaining objections raised by the Examiner to Claims 1, 5 and 7 are addressed by the amendment. The cancellation of Claim 2 renders the objection to Claim 2 moot.

Amended Claims 1 and 5 include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Claims 3-4 and 6-7 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 14-17 depend from Claim 5. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 1-7 and 14-17 are allowable.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for a typographical error. The foregoing amendment corrects the typographical error.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings alleging that the joining rib (103) was not shown. The joining rib is shown in Figure 13 and Figures 3, 9 and 10 have been amended to more clearly illustrate the joining rib.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that a copy of the European Search Report was not received with the IDS filed July 26, 2004. A Supplemental IDS was filed on November 29, 2005 that included a copy of the European Search Report.

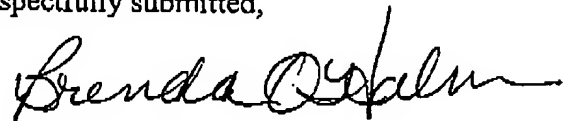
Appln. No. Serial No. 10/781,530
Amdt. Dated 1/25/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/25/2005
Page 9 of 9

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

No fee is believed to be due. If a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee and any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

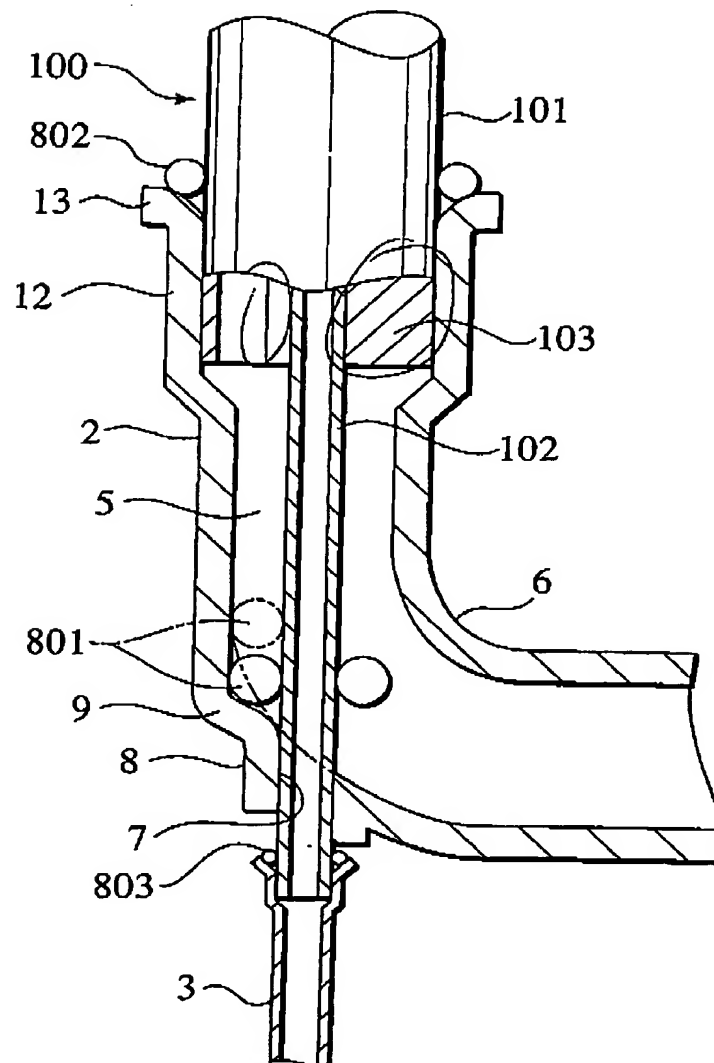


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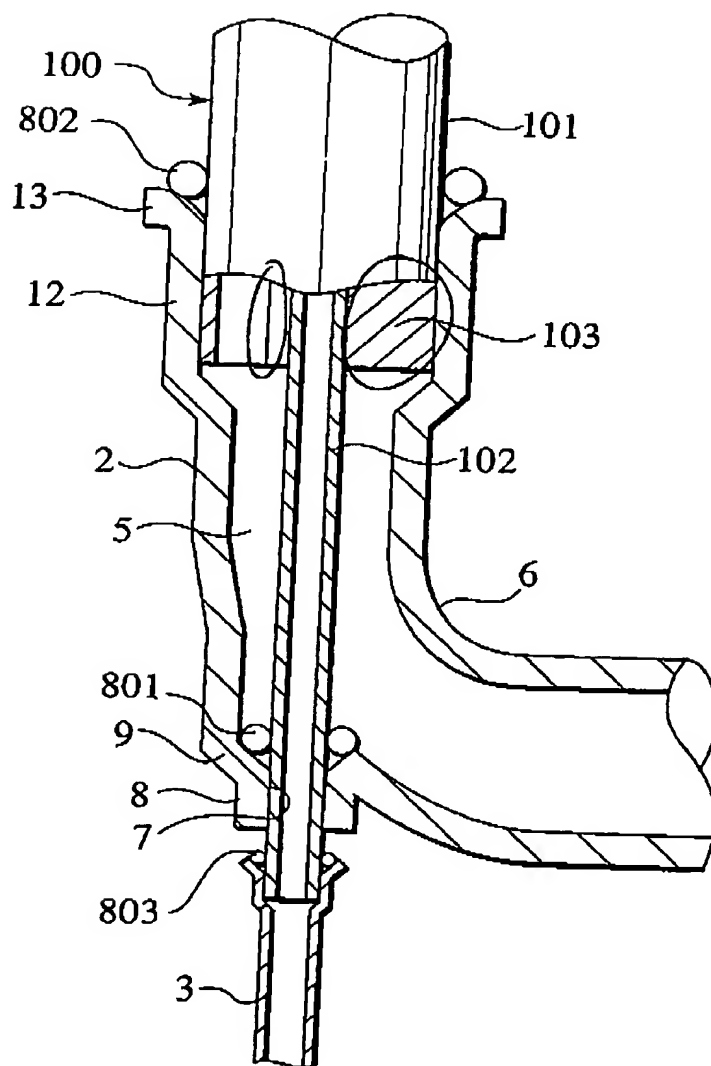
Appl. No. 10,781,530
Amtd. Dated Jan. 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of Oct. 25, 2005
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG.3



Appl. No. 10,781,530
Amtd. Dated Jan. 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of Oct. 25, 2005
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 9



Appl. No. 10,781,530
Amdt. Dated Jan. 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of Oct. 25, 2005
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 10

